The USP Region

International Cooperation Forum on Telecommunications and Broadcasting:
Digital Divide to Digital Opportunity
October 6 th 2006, Chiyoda Hoso Kaikan

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Northern Mariana Islands

Federated States of Micronesia

Palau

Marshall Islands

Papua New Guinea

Nauru

Kiribati

Solomon Is.

Tuvalu

Tokelau

Samoa
Alafua Campus

Vanuatu
Emalus Campus

Fiji Islands
Laucala Campus

Tonga

Niue

Cook Is.

Australia

New Zealand

Hawaii

Pitcairn

Map compliments of ITS
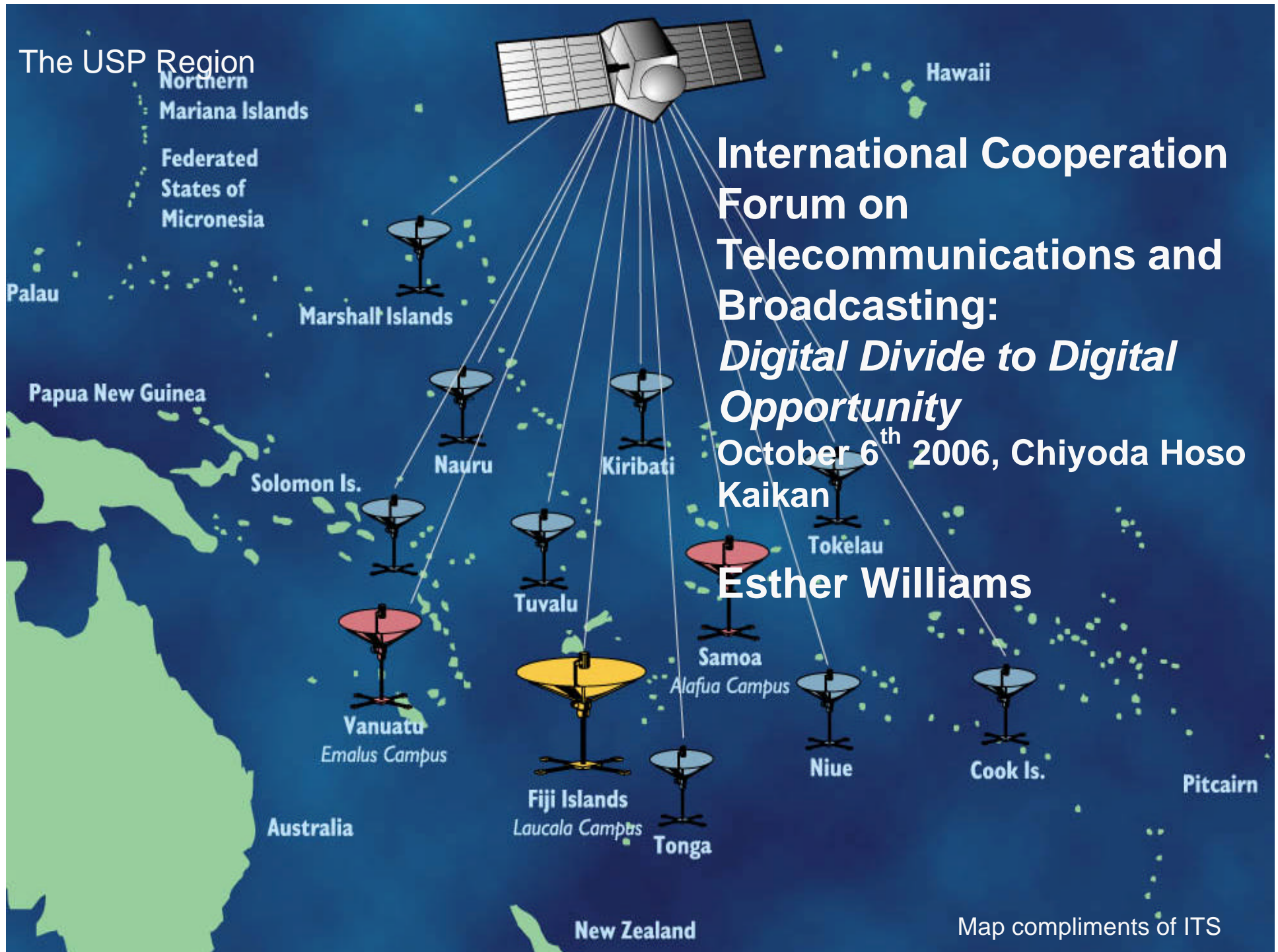
Presentation

- **Introduction of The University of the South Pacific, USP**
- **ICT and development**
- **Distance education**
- **USPNet, 1974 – 2006, latest upgrade**
- **Impact of USPNet**
- **Challenges and Opportunities**
- **JICA ICT Capacity Building @ USP**
- **Japan-Pacific Regional ICT Centre**

The University of the South Pacific

- A premier research and teaching regional university of excellence
- Established in 1968 by 12 countries in the region
- Over 22,050 students in 2006, 60% of which study by distance
- Commitment to quality
- Strong member government support
- Successful regional consortium
- USPNet and new technologies engagement
- Strong research plan and program
- High quality financial management and leadership
- A caring Pacific family community

USP

USP 2006

- Major restructure from 5 Schools to 4 Faculties
- New management; greater links with governments
- Centre of excellence in all things Pacific
- New programs
- USPNet and DFL
- Greater use of new technologies and methods
- Growing multidisciplinary research
- ICT Policy
- Greater partnership contributions
- Expand entrepreneurial efforts

Does ICT really play the role as a vehicle for development?

ICT availability and opportunities make demonstrable significant impact on the following:

- Better Health and Education services
- Education more accessible
- National improvement in productivity
- Progressive Rural development
- Increase income generation

National Productivity

- Investment in ICT contributed to growth and labour productivity & add to nations capital stock. e.g., OECD, Malaysia, Singapore, Ireland, Mauritius

- 1% of aggregate labour productivity growth where measured. Ireland, Finland, S.Korea

- Studies in 13 OECD and Asian countries demonstrated improved firm performance from use of ICT

- Innovation in ICT leads to new and better business processes and consumers benefit from lower prices and improved services

- Access and availability reduce costs of ICT

USP

Other Benefits

- **Investment**. **Developed countries ratio of ICT spending is between 6-10% of gdp.**
- **Developing country is minimal – less than 1% but higher if potential is optimised. Fiji case**
- **ICT-production. In developed countries the value added of ICT industries accounts for 4-6% of GDP.**
- **In developing countries this benefit may be difficult but where it has been measured it is about 2 %.**
- **Growth: Studies of 49 countries of ICT : Developed countries ICT contribution account for .3 to 1.1 % of gdp growth annually. Developing countries – 2% where measured**

USP

Distance Education

- 1974 USP commenced making education accessible through distance

- Challenges great esp in local content and converting courses to DFL mode

- Trained HRD

- Increase in demand and numbers

- 2015 all face-to-face courses available by distance and /or online

- Programs completed by distance

USPNet 1974

- USP-Owned satellite communications network that links up 12 countries by satellite – HF Radio

- Used for teaching, meetings, forums, communication

- Hub with earth station in Suva, Fiji with mini hubs in Samoa and Vanuatu

- 18 sites

- Audio becomes weak when more sites added and heavy use

USPNet 2000

- Upgrade commenced and funded by JICA, AusAID and NZAID
- Video/audio conferencing and internet regional satellite communication facility
- Two-way simultaneous video conference and video broadcast between the hub and mini hub and remote stations and audio
- Communication telephone, fax, transmission of data
- 64 kbps for 11 stations, 128 kbps for 4 stations

USPNet 2006

- IP-Based USPNet

- Replace NEC satellie technology with new platform from GilatSatellite Networks Ltd.

- Use New Skies Satellite NSS-5

- Gilat VSAT Platform based on IP now deployed in all the USP member countries

- IP technology allows seamless integration into LAN

- 5Mhz bandwidth (3.4Mbps data rate – 1.9 Mbps out-bound and 1.5 Mbps in-bound

Impact USPNet Enhancement

- Improved video conference to remote campuses

- Faster data speeds for increased email and Internet access

- Faster downloads and improved web application

- VOIP possible

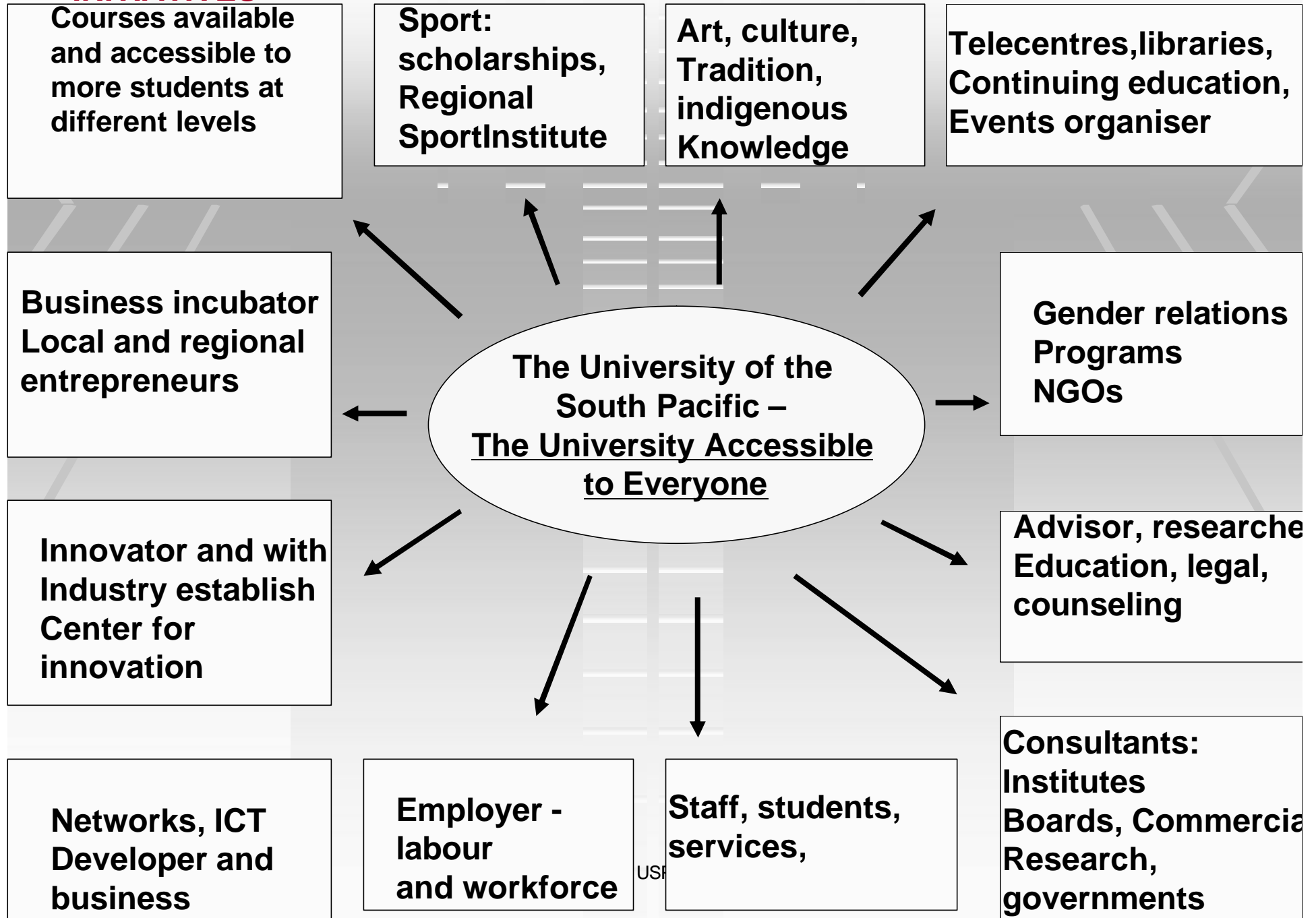- Upgrade of audio and visual facilities

USP determined to improve the accessibility, delivery and outcomes of its programs to reach all and make the **university accessible to everyone?**

- Community participation

- Awareness from early age

- University education must be accessible

- Link with schools and communities

- Education, environment and ESD, health, governance, sport, entrepreneurship, vocational education

Impact

- Improved distance education services video, voice

- Increased no of students accessing and using USPNet

- Improved quality of teaching and pass rates

- More courses and programs can be offered online

- Accessible to more people

Courses available and accessible to more students at different levels

Sport: scholarships, Regional SportInstitute

Art, culture, Tradition, indigenous Knowledge

Telecentres,libraries, Continuing education, Events organiser

Business incubator Local and regional entrepreneurs

Gender relations Programs NGOs

The University of the South Pacific – The University Accessible to Everyone

Innovator and with Industry establish Center for innovation

Advisor, researche Education, legal, counseling

Networks, ICT Developer and business

Employer - labour and workforce

Staff, students, services,

Consultants: Institutes Boards, Commercia Research, governments

The Challenges and Opportunities

- **Human resources development**
- **DFL growth**
- **Success with USPNet**
- **Local content development**
- **ICT policy commitment**
- **High costs of satellite space and bandwidth**
- **Adoption of new and appropriate pedagogical methods to the learning needs of current and future generations**
- **Strong leadership and visionary**

JICA ICT Capacity Building @ USP Project

- Capacity and HRD in Computing studies
- Distance and flexible learning – multimedia database, streaming video, online course development,research
- Professional training – Redhat Linux, Cisco Academy
- ICT education for schools

Japan-Pacific Regional ICT Centre

- **Address digital opportunity issues in the Pacific specifically HRD**
- Training of skilled engineers and specialists
- Training in local content provision
- ICT literacy in the community, and government
- Improve socio-economic development
- Enhance USP's role as training centre
- Centre bridging old and new, haves and have-nots
- Encourage innovation, incubator system, research, new methods of teaching
- Develop partnership with industry